NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

THE GARDINER CLAIM—THE ALLEGED FRAUD ON THE GOVERNMENT.

We have received from M. de Cuesta the following Letter on a subject that is attracting just now much of the attention of our contemporaries, to which we give place with great cheerfulness, as we trust will also be given to it by those who have accredited the rumors, some of which it positively contradicts:

Washington, July 7, 1851.

Messrs. Editors: My attention has been called to an extract from a letter to the Philadelphia Inquirer, published in this morning's Sun, at Baltimore, in which my name is mentioned in a manner which has naturally excited my surprise and indignation. I am, therefore, reluctantly obliged to ask the favor of you to publish this note.

The publication referred to relates to the claim of Dr. G. A. Gardiner before the Mexican Commission.

On the 3d of July I received a summons to appear before the grand jury as a witness. But the statement says that I was summoned as belonging to the Mexican Legation. This is no so. I never have belonged to it; and, although I have been employed by the Mexican Minister as his private secretary and interpreter, my connexion with the Legation has never been an official one.

The publication referred to purports to give an account of the examination of witnesses before the grand jury. Without stating what passed there, (which I know according to the laws and usages of this country is secret,) it is due to my personal character to say that the publication is inaccurate and false in every material particular.

I know nothing of the claim of Dr. Gardiner. I never certified any papers relating to it, or had any thing to do with the "getting up" of the testimony. I have never written to the President. I have not been in Mexico since 1829. I have no reason to believe that the claim was fraudulent, and have never had any interest in or concern with it, if it were so. The money I received of the indemnity was out of the claim of J. H. Mears, and was received upon a power of attorney, transmitted from Mexico to his excellency the Mexican Minister, and by him transferred to me. It was, as I understood, due to a creditor of Gardiner & Mears. But I have no knowledge of the facts whatever.

I cannot forbear to express my surprise at the recklessness with which the name of a private individual is thus brought before the public. F. DE LA CUESTA.

Fearful Accident.—At a little before noon on Monday a terrible accident occurred at Browns' new hotel. A number of the bricklayers had not gone to work in the morning, and the laborers, to avoid loss of time, continued to convey bricks to the floor of the fourth story, until a range of joists, resting on a trimmer, sunk under the weight. There were corresponding trimmers as supporters for the joists all the way down, and they all gave way in succession, precipitating probably several thousand weight of bricks and nine of the men to the ground. Three of them were carried to the Infirmary, supposed to be fatally injured. One of them, named James Hanrahan, died last night. The names of the other two are Michael Hanrahan and Archie Brown, the latter a colored man. Six others were hurt—some of them badly, but not fatally.

The scaffolding of the new building at the corner of Louisiana avenue and Seventh street, one story high, also gave way yesterday morning, by which a colored man was seriously hurt.

EARTHQUAKE IN SOUTH AMERICA.

Valparaiso papers received at New York by the *Empire City* mention that there was another earthquake at Copiapa, Chili, on the 26th of May, which was more severe than that at Valparaiso, of which we have previously published the accounts. It took place about twenty minutes past 1 P. M., lasted during two minutes, and was accompanied by strong horizontal shocks from north to south. The inhabitants were in the greatest alarm. The shocks continued every minute till eight o'clock in the evening. The damage was considerable, but no particulars are given beyond the fact that scarcely a house was left in good condition in the street "Commercia."

A letter in the Journal of Commerce, written from Calders, two hundred miles north of Valparaiso, on the 26th of May, says:

"We felt this afternoon a severe shock of an earthquake, shaking our house and driving us into the street. The sea rose and receded several successive times to the distance of ten or twelve feet, in as many minutes. To the southward it must have caused much damage, as from thence it approached."

Late London papers, among advices received from the Pacific ports by the West India mail, contain full particulars of the earthquake at Valparaiso on the 2d of April last. According to the Valparaiso Reporter, 260 houses were destroyed by this earthquake. Its duration was about fifteen seconds, and it was believed that if it had continued ten or fifteen seconds longer it would have produced the same disastrous consequences as the great earthquake in 1822, when the city was almost totally destroyed.

"The American frigate *Raritan* let go her lead immediately, and had great difficulty in hauling it in, the convulsion at the bottom of the sea having caused it to sink three feet in the sand.

"The motion of the earth was observed to be of less violence in some parts than others not 100 yards distant, so much so that old and decayed houses stood the shock better, in some parts, than newly and strongly erected edifices, and those houses in the structure of which the most timber had been employed remained almost sound.

"During the eventful fifteen seconds the houses rocked to and fro as so many vessels at sea."

Houses in the port, where they are mostly built on a rocky foundation, suffered comparatively little. The greatest damage was in some parts along the beach, where the ground is low and sandy. Much damage was done to stores in which were liquors, glassware, and other valuable materials. Much damage was done also by a rain which followed on the 4th, and continued for twelve hours, by inundating the roofless houses. The loss is estimated at $1,000,000.

Late from Santa Fe.—We have Santa Fe dates to the 30th May. Several thousand Apaches, together with their celebrated chief Chacon, were in the neighborhood of San Miguel, engaged in making pottery. The Camanches were shortly to hold a grand council, at which a large number of tribes were to be present, and it was feared that some hostile scheme was under contemplation.

Chacon, together with some of the principal braves and squaws of the Camanches, had paid a visit to Gov. Calhoun, at the Palace in Santa Fe. They had brought with them a white boy who had been taken captive, and who was redeemed by the Governor. The tribes which had assembled for council at Bosque Redondo had been affected with panic, and fled precipitately, leaving behind them almost all their effects.

Jenny Lind in the Land of Steady Habits.—On Saturday evening, Jenny Lind's concert took place in Fourth Church, in Hartford. The tickets were run up to five and ten dollars each. The building was crowded, and two thousand persons who could not enter hovered around the building tops to catch the sounds of the music within. But the precaution was taken of closing the windows and blinds of the church, so as to prevent outsiders from hearing. This caused a great tumult, and the mob shouted and cheered, so that it was almost impossible for the audience to hear the singing. Some windows were smashed, and one or two knock-downs occurred in the crowd, which did not disperse for an hour after the concert closed. Every one curses the ticket speculators, and the manner the tickets were disposed of. There is still much excitement. The mob was so dense about the church that Jenny was smuggled through the back door as soon as the concert closed, and took the cars for Springfield.

There were 151 deaths by cholera in St. Louis during the week ending on the 30th ultimo. From the 4th of April, when the first case occurred, up to the 30th ultimo, there were 549 deaths by cholera From the 1st of January to the 30th of June the whole number of deaths in St. Louis was 1,902.

Caution to Ladies.—A Cincinnati paper states that Dr. Muzzey was one day last week called on to perform a singular operation upon the head of a young lady living on John street. It appeared that she had been in the habit of twisting and tying her hair so tightly that the scalp had become parted from the skull, and it was found necessary to open the scalp to remove the matter which had accumulated beneath. This the first case of the kind we have ever known.

THE IRON MANUFACTURE.

In the valley of the Ohio, as well as in the Atlantic States, the iron manufacturing interest is in a condition of ruinous depression. Under the operation of the existing tariff, which encourages the importation of European iron produced by the cheap labor of half-starved workmen, our American furnaces and forges are brought to a stand-still—their fires extinguished—the arm of honest home industry paralyzed—capitalists ruined—and thousands of our people thrown out of employment. A fresh practical illustration on this point is furnished in the Pittsburgh American of Saturday, as follows:

"We announced lately the failure of a number of furnaces in Clarion and Venango counties. We also noticed the stoppage of work at several of the rolling mills in this city. We also published the report of the Board of Revenue Commissioners in relation to Allegheny county, showing the depreciation of property, and particularly in that of Iron and Cotton, which was officially reported at fifty per cent. of its value. We have now before us another instance of ruinous depreciation of iron property on our waters—that of the Monongalia Iron Work on Cheat river, a short distance from where that fine stream empties into the Monongahela, between Brownsville and Morgantown. In 1842 this property was purchased by an enterprising firm in Baltimore—the Ellicotts—for $80,000. Since that time they had improved the property by the building of two additional furnaces, which cost together $32,000, and expended in other valuable improvements in all $60,000. It consists of fifteen thousand acres of land, one-fifth of which is fine farming land, a large portion of which is under good cultivation; one large rolling mill and nail factory; three large blast furnaces, costing in all $42,000; grist mill, saw mill, and about seventy dwelling houses, many of them large and valuable buildings. There is also on the place a ferry of note, which, in times of prosperity and trade, was of itself worth three hundred dollars rental; and a land throughout abounding in iron ore and stone coal in exhaustless quantities, and, excepting the cleared farms, covered with heavey timber. This extensive property was brought to the hammer at Morgantown, Virginia, and, with all its improvements, sold by the sheriff for $25,750."

The same mail which afforded the above paragraph, brings another of a similar description which is worthy of being recorded, as follows:

"The Mount Holly Iron Works, situated in Cumberland county, (Pa.) six miles from the flourishing town of Carlisle, and seventy miles from Baltimore, and one hundred miles from Philadelphia, with a good turnpike road running by it, and the Cumberland Valley railroad within six miles, was sold recently for $13,000. The depressed state of this species of property will be seen when we state the facts which follow. The establishment contains seven thousand acres of land, the greater part of which is well wooded, a mansion house, and twenty-seven houses or tenements for the workmen. The ore is supposed to be inexhaustible, and is situated about four hundred yards from the furnace. There are two good waterpowers with sufficient water to carry all their works. The wood now standing upon the land is estimated at one hundred thousand cords. And yet this establishment, at public auction, was sold for thirteen thousand dollars; being less than two dollars per acre for the land, including the buildings, &c. This establishment a few years ago was purchased for thirty-eight thousand dollars.

"Here is a practical illustration of the effects of the Tariff of 1846, and one, we should think, which would open the eyes of the good people of Pennsylvania. This case is not an isolated one; it is a true index to the condition of the iron works generally in that State."

THE MICHIGAN "CONSPIRACY" TRIALS.

The evidence of *Henry Phelps*, who testified for the prosecution on the 25th ultimo, is more positive and direct against "Doctor" Abel S. Fitch than any thing we have yet seen. Fitch seems to have acted as captain or chief counsellor to the banditti:

"Fitch told Phelps if he did not wish to burn the depot himself he could employ some one else, and make a good thing out of it, as he would have nearly the whole of the $200. Fitch told him that he paid $150 for the burning of the depot at Detroit. He had a conversation about one of the party named Laycock, who, it was feared, would expose their plans; and it was determined to have him arrested and sent to prison, as it was a pity to kill him, in consequence of his youth. The witness agreed to all the propositions of Fitch. Fitch spoke of the depot in this city; said they had prepared the match there, and sent it to a man in this city, and paid him $150 for burning the depot; said it was so constructed as to burn a given time, and they gave instructions about it; he did not tell who the person was it was sent to, but said it had been done as directed, and when it burst out it spread so rapidly that all the water in the river could never extinguish it; said they had injured the company to the amount of about half a million of money during the past year, and would double that the ensuing year. He said they were going to burn the new depot as soon as they got it finished; said they had warned people not to ride over the road, and, as they knew better than to do it, he did not care a d—n who they killed, if it was the Governor of the State. In case I got into difficulty in burning the Niles depot, he said he would bail me out, change the venue, and remove the case to Jackson, where he could get witnesses to swear me out; he (Fitch) said his influence there was great, and that all the new officers of the county were pledged against the road. Fitch spoke to me about burning Niles depot, took me into Filley's bar-room, and then into a small room built into the bar-room, and exhibited to me a match, which, he said, was made like the one used to burn the Detroit depot; said they would give me this or another one to go to Niles with, and they were preparing to give Detroit another touch, as they were getting pretty well built up again."

Murder, robbery, a demoniac desire for revenge against the Michigan railroad company, as well as wholesale arson, were the confessed objects of "Dr." Fitch and his companions. Fitch seems to have calculated greatly on his personal influence to carry him safely through his diabolical schemes; but so far he has counted without his host. It remains to be seen what "personal influence" is going to work with a Court and Jury in Detroit.

FOURTH OF JULY ACCIDENTS.

The celebration of the late Anniversary was attended, as usual, with numerous accidents arising from the employment of fire-arms. In the city of New York many accidents of this kind occurred, viz:

A little girl named Mernard was severely burnt while setting off crackers at the corner of Tenth avenue and Forty-fourth street, her clothes having caught fire.

Two boys named Hugh Shay and Thomas Breman were playing with a loaded pistol in Cross street, when it went off accidentally, and the wad, which was pretty solid, entered the side of Shay, inflicting a serious wound. He was conveyed to the city hospital.

John Bernard, a boy, was firing a heavily loaded pistol on the battery, when it exploded and frightfully lacerated the right side of his face.

While William Craddock, a sailor, was endeavoring to draw the charge from a pistol on the corner of Rosevelt and Water street, the charge exploded, and the ramrod being in the barrel at the time was driven into his stomach to the depth of three or four inches. He was conveyed to the city hospital, and is not expected to recover.

Wm. H. Johnson, a colored boy, had his thumb shot off and some of his fingers very much lacerated, while about to discharge a pistol in a butcher's shop in Spring street.

A gentleman, whose name we could not learn, was badly wounded in the knee by the wad of a cannon fired in Centre street by some boys. He was at the time riding in one of the Harlem cabs.

A man named Wm. Sailors was accidentally shot in the knee by a boy named Edward Sandy, the pistol having gone off prematurely. The charge was buckshot.

Michael Reynolds, a boy, while firing a pistol on the Battery, the wad flew up and striking him in the left eye inflicted a severe wound.

A boy named John Barned had his thumb and one finger shot off by the premature discharge of a pistol in the Park.

A boy named John Jackson, while engaged in setting off pistols and crackers in Perry street, fell and broke his thigh.

Some mischievous boys, who were firing crackers in Hudson street, threw a lighted match into a wagon passing there, which so frightened the horses that they ran wildly and became unmanageable. After running some time, they came in contact with a span of horses detached from the Hudson River Railroad cars, and caused them to run off, and the driver was badly injured. They were captured before doing further damage.

Bernard Kennedy, a boy, was arrested for firing a pistol at two men. The shot did not take effect.

Samuel Williams, another boy, was arrested for firing small shot from a pistol at John Atterly.

Albert P. Wanmaker, a boy, was arrested for frightening an old lady in Chatham street, by discharging a pistol close by her ear.

At Hanover, (N. H.) Jeremiah Kimball was killed; John Cotie was, it was feared, mortally wounded; and Mr. Jenks was severely injured by the premature discharge of a cannon.

At Sing Sing, (N. Y.) while a number of persons were firing a salute, the cannon exploded prematurely, shockingly injuring Mr. Bentley and Mr. Patterson. They were engaged in loading the peice, and had their arms, hands, and faces frightfully mutilated, though both are expected to recover.

Launch of the Floating Bridge.—We learn from the Lake Champlain Beacon that on Saturday of last week the work of launching the monster float just completed by the Vermont Central Railroad Company was performed on Alburgh beach, opposite Rouse's Point.

EDITORS' CORRESPONDENCE.

Naples, (Italy,) May 11, 1851.

Messrs. Gales & Seaton: In a late number of the Intelligencer there appeared a paragraph from a Western paper, giving, on the authority of a traveller, a statement of "a grand project on foot at Naples" to extinguish the fires of Vesuvius, by the introduction of the waters of the neighboring sea upon the flaming mass, said to lie some thousand feet below the ocean level. I need hardly assure you that no such design exists, either on the part of Government or individuals. The idea is as Quixotic as would be the attempt. It most probably derives its origin from the inventive brain of the garrulous guides, who are accustomed to amuse strangers, in the fatiguing ascent of the mountain, with the most extraordinary fictions and assertions, exaggerated in proportion to the credulity of the listener.

To render such a project feasible, there should be some reason to believe that the fires of Vesuvius are concentrated within a contracted space. Geological speculation and natural facts are at variance with such a theory. The eruptions always affect the surrounding country to a distance of fifteen and twenty miles. The *Solfaterra*, the ancient *Forum Vulcani*, ceases to smoke—the thermal waters in Lake Agnano no longer bubble up to the surface—and every hot spring in the region of the Campi Phlegræi, sixteen miles from Vesuvius, is agitated, or its vitality suspended, during the convulsion. The wells dry up, and shocks of earthquake, more or less violent, admonish the populations thirty miles distant that the volcano is in labor, and that an eruption is at hand. These phenomena all indicate that Vesuvius is only a vent for a vast field of fire and mineral combustion, spreading under the surface of the earth to a great depth, and to an unknown extent. The twenty-six extinct craters, and the *semi-vivant* Salfaterra and Monte Nuovo, in the Campi Phlegræi, are proofs that the earth may seek other issues in this vicinity for its raging fires than through Vesuvius. Monte Nuovo, in 1538, after the succession of twenty earthquakes in twenty-four hours, rose, amid smoke and the discharge of fiery stones, on the shores of the Lucrine lake, in forty-eight hours, to a height of four hundred and forty feet; and there it remains to this day. It is composed entirely of volcanic ashes, scoriæ, and lava stones, and it is only now, after the lapse of three centuries, beginning to yield to cultivation. The heat of the earth around its base, a circumference of a mile and a half, denotes the near approach of hidden fires to the surface. Naples lies upon an isthmus, between the living volcano of Vesuvius and the slumbering and silent craters around the gulf of Baiæ; and I have no doubt but that beneath the crust upon which the city rests is a fiery flood connecting these two opposite volcanic tracts.

It is the general opinion here that Naples would be endangered were Vesuvius to become inactive. It is the safety-valve of the imprisoned steam and gases in the bowels of the earth, which, deprived of this mode of escape, would elsewhere explode with accumulated fury. Since A. D. 79, when, after an unknown interval of slumber, it returned to active life, with the exception of the earthquake and volcanic creation of Monte Nuovo, the borders of Campania Felix have been exempt from destructive subterranean convulsions. The silence of ancient writers leaves us in the dark as to the length of this period of lethargy. Strabo, thirty years before the birth of Christ, *supposes* it to have once been a volcano, from its form and from the matter around its summit; in his time its slopes were covered with richly-cultivated fields and vineyards. The fact, however, that the buried Herculaneum rests upon a lava foundation, as the superincumbent Resina does upon the sixty feet separating strata of lava between it and its Roman predecessor, and that the chariot-wheel tracked streets of Pompeii are laid in the same substance, furnishes conclusive evidence that, at a remote and unrecorded epoch, Vesuvius had poured its burning streams over the plains of Campania. It was probably during this season of repose that the craters of the Campi Phlegræi were in full blaze, and that the tufo hills which environ Naples were thrown up.

Since A. D. 79, when Herculaneum and Pompeii were destroyed, forty-six eruptions have occurred; at first at irregular and prolonged intervals, but within the two last centuries rarely taking place more than ten years apart. It is problematical if Vesuvius has not to a great degree compensated for its destructive ravages by the increased productive powers it has given to the soil. After eighty or a hundred years, the country overrun by lava becomes tillable again, and yields the most luxuriant crops of grain, the most prolific vineyards, and fig and lemon and orange plantations. The grapes upon volcanic soils make the strongest, and, with care, the best species of wine. The traveller, as he passes over the railroad from Naples to Pompeii, will find the road carried for miles through deposites of lava as solid and apparently as deeply imbedded in the earth as granite; on either side he will see deep quarries, from which blocks are being cut for transportation to Naples, and, as he walks the streets of that city and the surrounding towns, he will be astonished to know that they, as well as the sea-walls, breakwaters, and quays, are all laid in this once fused material, vomited from the inexhaustible Vesuvian furnace.

It is an error to suppose that jets of fire are to be seen by night upon the peak. When not in eruption, its only sign of vitality is the smoke rising in light wreaths in the dry summer air, collecting into a balloon shape, and floating off in the blue ether, as if the genius of the infernal regions were issuing from the bowels of the earth on a voyage to the supernal antipodes. After heavy showers of rain in spring and autumn, or snow in winter, the smoke ascends in black massy columns, enveloping the summit in an impenetrable veil.

The two last eruptions have broken out on the eastern flank, where the country is less thickly populated than on the southern or sea side. I recently visited the spot where the lava of 1850 descended. In going and returning, I travelled entirely around the mountain, passing through one of the most fertile districts of country I have ever seen; the vegetation was much more advanced and the atmosphere warmer along the base than out upon the plain. In four hours we had made half the circuit and arrived at the village of Ottajano; three-quarters of a mile beyond this point, after crossing the lava of 1839, we came to that of 1850. It had poured down from the crater in a flood several miles in width, and some thirty feet in depth, and had suddenly halted upon the plain, seven miles from its source, forming a precipitous wall of rock. The beautiful grounds of the Prince of Ottajano, as well as his *Casino*, were laid waste, and a church and small hamlet completely buried up. Strange to say, such is the latent heat of lava, that a wisp of straw, upon being placed in a crevice, was immediately blown into a flame by the wind. The depression of the cone on this side is so great that it is probable that future eruptions will continue to take the direction of Ottajano, unless one of unusual force should open a rent in the wall towards *Torre del Greco*, when terrible destruction would be occasioned to the subjacent towns. People build, live, and cultivate every where on and about Vesuvius, with as much confidence as if the "great project" of extinguishing the volcano were actually accomplished. Should I be in this neighborhood when that "prodigious" undertaking is begun, you may rely upon my "reporting progress." The fickleness of Uncle Sam towards his agents abroad will no doubt deprive me of that pleasure, and I am afraid my successors *ad infinitum* will not be more fortunate than your humble servant.

E. J. M.

Pompeii.—A recent letter from an American gentleman in Naples says:

"Vesuvius is now calmly smoking, and seems disposed to repose himself from the fatigues of his devastating labors of the last year. Pompeii is slowly appearing above ground. About twenty laborers are kept at work, who manage to get off a cartload of earth a day from the subincumbent city. Not one half of the entire city is yet excavated. The earthy mound which covers it is an exceedingly beautiful and rich vineyard, with houses of peasants scattered over its surface. A bastion of the sea-wall has recently been unearthed, which goes to confirm the opinion that the sea, now nearly a mile distant, once laved the walls of Pompeii."

Balloon Accident.—A disastrous balloon accident occurred in London on the 16th ultimo, when Mr. and Mrs. Green, who had ascended in the great balloon from the Hippodrome, received serious injuries, the balloon having struck against the dome of the Crystal Palace, where it was only saved from doing vast damage by a discharge of the ballast, after which the machine took a direction towards some houses, against which it struck, damaging property to the value of £1,000. The accident was occasioned by an escape of gas through a rent in the silk.

MEXICAN FORESTS, FRUITS, BIRDS, FLOWERS, ESCULENTS, CLIMATE, &c.

FOR THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

In my last number I drew attention to the articles which were mostly considered the necessities of produce, and but few which are considered luxuries, and confined myself mostly to merely naming the articles and amount produced per ninety yards square. The produce of the forest ranks next in commercial and necessary importance. I will, then, proceed to state the use and growth of timber in the departments which I have described. Cedar (red) is one of the numerous timbers used and grown in the department and district; it abounds every where, and is principally used in ship-building, floors, house-work, &c.; it is soft, easily worked, and very durable. "Tapote" ranks next in importance. I hardly know whether to class this tree with the fruits, or simply as a useful timber; the fruit is about the size of a large apple, sweet and delicious; the forest abounds with them, and they grow to an enormous size; the timber is hard, durable, and answers well for fencing, house, or ship-building, and is superior to coal for steaming purposes. Pimento, *ebony*, holm, oak, fustic, are abundant; the chijol, a very fine wood, which becomes petrified after being cut in a very few years, whether left in the open air or buried; from this wood houses could be built that would in a few years become fire-proof, and last as long as those built of stone; the wood, in a green state, is easily worked; it is used in building wharves, forts, &c., and would be very good as railroad sleepers, or as a plank road. Ornamental wood abounds throughout the province; in fact, the forests are extensive, and they afford a variety of useful timber; many of them solid almost as iron. Besides these, many are found producing valuable gums, which would no doubt be useful both in commerce and as medicine. I have here only mentioned woods which are known to be useful; there are others, flower-bearing and spicy, which, when their qualities are known, would be found to be valuable as ornamental trees, or as medicines and spices. The cocoa and palm abound; the gourd tree grows every where along the margin of the streams; wild figs, in fact thousands of various and beautiful flowering shrubs and plants, ornament and adorn the forests in this favored climate. Among the medicinal plants which are indigenous to this part of Mexico is the castor bean, which grows in great abundance, and could no doubt be made profitable with but little expense.

We next find the fruits come in order; these are all indigenous, and are of that character peculiar to tropical climates. The annona and cherymoya rank first in order; this delightful and healthy fruit grows to great perfection, and could no doubt be propagated in Florida and Louisiana. I sent a few seeds to my own home, which grew, and the plant is now under the care of Mr. Brackenridge, with others from the same place. The alligator pear, well known as the vegetable marrow of the West Indies; the petat, a most pleasant sweet acid, healthy, cooling, and refreshing; this fruit would no doubt prosper wherever the Spanish bayonet grows throughout any of the Southern States; several kinds of zapote, the mangoe, and many fruits totally unknown beyond the limits of the tropics. Some no doubt could be propagated in several of the Southern States.

The productions of the garden are equally numerous and excellent. The esculents are: yucas, yams, taras, sweet and common potatoes, casada—four of these are fine substitutes for potatoes, and could be grown in any of the Southern States, including Maryland and Virginia; beans, many varieties; chyote and echote, two vegetables totally unknown to us, would grow in any of the States south of New York; ochre, tomatoes, pumpkins, lettuces, and cabbages; turnips, beets, and all vegetables known to us, grow in great perfection. Many of their fragrant and beautiful flowers are not only cultivated for ornament, but either for preserves or vegetables. Some of these are the long-leaved matchette, plumerea, and cromien leguminosea. Many medicinal plants grow in such abundance throughout this region that their culture is not necessary; among them is the castor bean, which bears abundantly. The land and air is actually fatigued with the variety and abundance of the vegetable kingdom; the air is actually vexed and tortured with the fragrance of multitudes of odors from the many-colored flowers in forest and on plain.

I very much fear that my feeble efforts to describe the floral beauties of Mexico will be a total failure. It is easy to give the dull description of the mere necessities of life; but when we enter within the precincts of the floral departments of the tropics, and particularly Mexico, where vegetation not only burdens the soil, but even seeks the air, the boldest botanist shrinks from the task, with all the auxiliaries of science, pen, and brush in hand. I enter, therefore, the floral field, with but faint hopes of doing justice to its beauties. Here, then, we will not be able to describe individuals, but one must speak of orders. Should I depart from this to describe single plants, it will be solely on account of their singularity, extraordinary beauty, or novelty. Some plants are so closely united to the useful vegetable and ornamental floral department that one is at a loss where to place them. Among these plants is the yuca aloifolia, (matchelta;) its tall spikes and delicate white aromatic florets would, at a first glance, place it among the flowers; but it is in universal use as a vegetable, and we must class it among the families of yuces. Solandias, thunbergeas, stapelias abound in great abundance, each of which would require the efforts of a year to collect. The orchideau clothe every tree and rock throughout the province; in many instances we see clinging to one tree fifty to a hundred varieties of these plants, clasping every branch, and finally topping the very summit of a tree, throwing out their long and delicate spikes, and hanging gracefully over, with their many-tinted flowers, surfeiting the air with a delightful fragrance. This family alone would fill a conservatory, and repay one for the trouble and toil of collection. Hybiscus, (monendelphia polyandria,) azalias, bremelias, variegate the plains and banks with their bright colors. The echetias entwine themselves around every bush or shrub, binding in a bunch innumerable light and gaudy plants, making a natural bouquet, of which they form the most prominent colors. The banks are pressed with the vines of the caracalla, and the velvety floret of the delicate cornucopia petals of this sweet-scented creeper fills the air with its perfume. The family of cacti covers the plains, forests, and river banks with their gaudy scentless flowers. Many of these bear fruits, while others are used as vegetables, and many species feed cattle. Few plants are more useful than the cacti. Acacias are numerous, several of the tribe are used in tanning and other purposes. They are here in numbers, from the diminutive sensitive plant to the mammoth tree. Does one want to adorn their conservatory with simply the beautiful? Seek Mexico, for her orchedeæs, azalias, caracallas, and a thousand others equally beautiful abound. Do we wish the fragrant combined with grace and beauty? Mexico furnishes them—solandis, plumerias, caracallas, bignonias, and many others, which are unknown to botany. Every year has its beauties; every month a new flower; every day a flower peculiar to itself; some blow only at night, and others only at certain hours of the day. The eye becomes cloyed with the beauties of the floral wilds, and the senses overpowered by their fragrance.

As various as are her flowers, and as beautiful as the imagination may conceive them to be, they fall short of the beautiful plumage and variegations of the feathered tribe. They are living, flying, or locomotive flowers, with notes far sweeter than David's harp. Here again, every night, day, and hour brings forth its appropriate warbler or chatterer. It would be impossible to enumerate all the feathered tribe; I will, therefore, confine myself to a few which have been induced to leave the deep glades, and become the companions of man. Among them is the curacoa or phisan, a bird about the size of a common turkey; the male is black and yellow, with an ornamental crest; the female chocolate, with a crest. The next is the cojoleto or tufted turkey; its color is purple, with white spots, legs and bill red. The next is the little noisy chechelaca, about the size of a chicken; a game bird, and crosses well with the domestic fowl. I imported these birds; they stood our winters, domesticated well, and I believe would be useful, and a great addition to our poultry yard. The muscovy is here both wild and tame, and the largest I ever saw. All other fowls of the poultry yard are abundant and cheap.

Probably no part of the world can boast of so fine a climate as Mexico, or that portion embraced between Tampico and point Delgado, along the Gulf of Mexico. Neither the cold bleak winds of winter nor the scorching heat and sultry airs of summer are experienced. The climate is an eternal spring verging into summer; nothing in vegetable life appears to die; a leaf or flower disappears you know not how, and it is immediately replaced by a bud or leaflet; the fruits ripen and are gathered, and the tree immediately puts forth new blossoms; in many instances blossoms, green, and ripe fruit are seen on the same tree. Man scarcely requires a habitation, and animals none; thirty working days in the year is all that is actually required not only to supply the necessities of life, but all the luxuries. Grasses grow all the year round, and in May, June, and July the ojete bears a fruit which, when ripe, answers the double purpose of food for cattle and flour for man. The soil is kind, light, loamy, and alluvial, at least that below the mountain districts. Every article in the shape of food, ornament, or flower to please the taste, gratify the senses; fruits of every character, fowls, birds, fish, game, and cattle, are here for the use of man, to be obtained with but little labor and expense. The lands can be at this time cheaply obtained, and under the laws of Mexico emigration is desired and encouraged. The description of climate, soil, vegetation, and productions of this part of the Mexican coast correspond with the same along the Huascoalcos and Tehuantepec rivers. At Cazonas, fifteen miles from the sea coast and about one hundred north of Vera Cruz, a French colony have settled and are doing a prosperous business. This colony amounts to about fifteen hundred persons. Companies of Americans could easily purchase lands fifteen miles from the sea coast, and in two or three years would find their lands profitable. Many of the valuable woods could be brought into market, and by proper industry the resources of the country fully developed. Labor is cheap, and the inhabitants are generally docile and kind. W. D. PORTER.

TO THE EDITORS.

Messrs. Gales & Seaton: We must "render unto Cæsar the things that are Cæsar's." The idea of the diminution of the sea did not originate with me, but is as old as philosophy itself; nor did the discovery of the sea-built houses of the zoophites emanate from my brain; but having been something of a traveller in my life—say, having wandered about this terrestrial sphere, over land and water, may be three hundred thousand miles—I found among the many beauties and wonders of nature nothing to equal, or I may say excel, the works of the zoophites of the ocean. Already, by their incessant industry, they have added to the land, in island and reefs, *sixteen millions eight hundred and sixteen thousand square miles*. Africa contains 12,000,000 and North and South America 13,900,000 square miles. It will therefore be perceived that the zoophite has actually abstracted sufficient solids from the ocean to diminish it 16,816,000 square miles.

In the Appendix to the works of the United States Exploring Expedition, volume seven, we find the following analysis of coral formations by Professor Silliman, with his remarks: "The results annexed are calculated for a hundred parts of the precipitate:" Silicia 22, lime 13.03, magnesia 7.66, fleuride of calcium 7.83, fleuride of magnesium 12 48, shorphate of magnesia 2.70, alumina (and iron) 16.00, oxide of iron 18 30.

I feel rather diffident in resuming this subject, which is about to be treated so ably by those connected with the late United States Exploring Expedition under Capt. Wilkes, who has already five hundred varieties of the different coral formations, and five hundred thousand varieties of beautiful shells—one thousand of these varieties yet unknown, and to be yet described. It would be treading on the heels of this Expedition, and robbing these persons of their well-earned fame, for me to appropriate to myself the credit of having discovered the fact that the ocean had diminished in solids by the formation of coral islands, reefs, and banks.

Who can look down into the clear deep blue ocean, and see the innumerable and almost invisible little zoophite at his work, and remain silent, and not cry out, Behold the wonders and workings of a great Providence for man's future benefit, for man's habitation! To those who are fond of the beautiful, and wish to see the varieties of coral formations and shells, the results of the little zoophites and shell fish, let him visit the Exploring Expedition's collection at the Patent Office, where he will see every formation, from the most silk-like delicate structures to solid stone. He will see the most eccentric formations, from the weeping-willow like formation to old Neptune's goblet; all shades of colors, from the darkest purple, the ethereal blue, to the lightest shade of orange. Visit the shells, and he will there again see all colors and shapes, containing all that I have mentioned in my former communication, with their beautiful polish of silician. Yours,

July 3, 1851. W. D. PORTER.

TO THE EDITORS.

Erroneous statements are going the rounds of the papers and periodicals as to the increase of the population of the District of Columbia, making the increase over that of 1840 only about 8,000; whilst its increase, after deducting Alexandria, receded to Virginia, is as follows:

	In 1840.	1850.	Increase.
Washington	23,364	40,072	16,708
Georgetown	7,132	7,957	825
Country part	3,069	3,303	234
	33,565	51,332	17,767

Many inquiries are daily made as to the number of new dwellings commenced in the city since the first of this year; and to satisfy curiosity I state that the whole number to the present time is about 200; of which nearly one-third are of brick, and two-thirds are of wood. These are exclusive of buildings pulled down for the purpose of rebuilding larger and more splendid ones; large additions added to many old ones in every Ward. Iron bridges have been thrown over the canal at Seventh and Four-and-a-half streets, Twelfth street pebble-paved across the Mall, and a commencement made to pave Fourteenth also across the Mall. Grading on the President's square and Mall also rapidly progressing. Improving streets by grading, laying foot and flagways, is going on in every Ward. The new Depot is now occupied, and the grading around that location is progressing rapidly. The Washington Monument is now 100 feet high above the ground, viz. 17½ to commencement of the shaft, and 86½ of the marble work. The work on the exterior of the Smithsonian building is drawing to a close, all the towers but one being up. The work on the Patent Office is rapidly progressing, and the old part has been painted, to give the whole a uniform appearance. The Treasury building has also been painted, but the building itself looks unfinished for the want of the south front, which is much needed to afford more room for the transaction of business. In the Navy Yard extensive improvements are going on in building and machinery. Extensive gas-works have been commenced on square C.

To show more fully the progress of the city, it is only necessary to state that there are at present in operation sixteen brick-yards, having 95 tables, calculated to make not less than 33,450,000 bricks this year. The trade on the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal is fast increasing; large quantities of produce, particularly coal, are daily coming down, mostly to be shipped from Alexandria. A goodly portion of this trade will find its way to the Eastern Branch as soon as our city canal is deepened so as to admit boats through its whole line. A very culpable neglect has been manifested in not deepening from the mouth of the Creek to Fifteenth street, so as to admit vessels of a draught equal to those passing through the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, passing up as far as 12th, delivering anthracite coal, and taking a return load of bituminous, as well as various other articles, lumber, &c. Our manufactures are increasing to a great extent under the enterprising mechanics, McKinstry, Ryder, Page, and Sneider, in machinery, besides planing and saw mills. A fine steamboat has been built by Mr. Page, who has another on the stocks; and much is done in building vessels by the Easby's, at the west end of the city.

J. SESSFORD.

HAYTI AND ST. DOMINGO.

The news of a battle between the Haytiens and Dominicans, brought by a recent arrival at New York, but subsequently contradicted by an arrival at Boston, seems to be fully confirmed by later advices. "La Gaceta" of St. Domingo, of the 15th ultimo, states that the battle in question was fought on the 29th and 30th of May, and that the forces of Emperor Faustin were completely defeated. The same paper contains a proclamation from President Baez announcing the victory. The Haytiens commenced the attack upon the Dominican post *Caleta* on the southern frontier; but the Dominicans drove them back to their own dominions.

CIRCULAR.

Notice to the Creditors of the late Republic of Texas.

The undersigned, a committee appointed at a public meeting held in this city on the 15th of February last, representing either in person or by proxy a large number of the creditors of the late Republic of Texas, were instructed to wait on the Secretary of the Treasury on the 15th of June, to obtain his answer to the inquiry, what class of creditors were entitled to the benefit and protection of the proviso in the boundary act, reserving five millions of dollars in the Treasury of the United States out of the Texan indemnity, and what releases they would be required consequently to sign, beg leave to announce that they have performed this duty.

On the morning of the 16th they waited on the Secretary of the Treasury, and were informed by him that, in referring to the act, he had discovered that the power of making this decision belonged exclusively to the President of the United States, to whom he desired to refer us.

The chairman of your committee called on the Executive, and was received with that courtesy which belongs to the habitual discharge by this high functionary of his duties. Your committee were informed by his Excellency that on the return of the Secretary of the Treasury to the seat of Government from a short visit to Ohio, he would call upon him for a report on the whole subject, when his decision should be rendered with all convenient dispatch.

He was asked whether that decision might be expected by the 15th of September, when your committee were instructed to call a meeting of all the creditors at Washington of the late Republic of Texas, to take into consideration the expediency of memorializing the Legislature of Texas at its next session, on the first Monday in November, as to the settlement of the public debt of Texas on some basis which might be mutually satisfactory.

The President was pleased to assure your committee that his decision should be given in time for the meeting in question.

Nothing now remains for your committee to do but earnestly to solicit a full meeting of all the creditors of the late Republic of Texas, in person or by proxy, whatever may be the specific securities pledged for their payment, at the National Hotel, at 12 o'clock meridian, on Monday, the 15th of September next, when all the documents essential to a full understanding of the subject of the public debt of Texas will be printed to be laid before the meeting.

This meeting becomes in one view of irresistible importance. It may avert the necessity of all further legislation on the part of the Congress of the United States, in reference to the final and immediate disbursement of the reserved five millions, by which needless delay will be avoided—a consideration of no small moment, when it is recollected that the Legislature of Texas sits but once in two years. Your committee have every reason to believe, from the indications of public opinion among the people of Texas, that they desire a just and honorable settlement of their public debt, equally consistent with the considerations of both policy and justice. To effect an object so essential to the relief and so important to the honor of the State, Texas has an ample fund in money and land, without inflicting a single burden or one act of injustice on the present or a future generation of her citizens.

It, however, behooves her creditors not to lose sight of the necessity of a conciliatory course of policy toward the Government of Texas in conducting such an adjustment; as the Secretary of the Treasury has distinctly informed your committee that not one dollar even of the reserved five millions in the Treasury of the United States can or will be disbursed except under the specific orders of the constituted authorities of Texas.

This, coupled with the immunity which belongs under the Constitution of the United States to all the States in the Union, in their inviolable exemption from all coercion in the payment of their debts, places her creditors incontestably at the mercy of Texas, but under circumstances which only confer on them a higher claim to her magnanimity as well as justice.

In conclusion, your committee reiterate an earnest invitation to their constituents to meet together, in a spirit of friendly harmony, at the time and period above designated.

J. HAMILTON, of South Carolina.
JOHN W. HOUSTON, of Delaware.
CHARLES ELLIS, of Virginia.
Committee.

N. B. The proprietors of the several papers throughout the United States are respectfully requested to give an insertion to this circular in their several papers, which may possibly be interesting to many of their subscribers.

TO THE EDITORS.

Washington, July 9, 1851.

Gentlemen: A communication appears in your paper this morning from Senor Cuesta, complaining of a misrepresentation in a telegraph despatch sent by me to the *Pennsylvania Inquirer*, and published in that paper last Friday. The misrepresentation complained of was caused by the telegraphic operator omitting a line of my manuscript; and the moment the paper came to hand I perceived the blunder made in the telegraph office, and sent the following correction, which was published on Monday:

"In my despatch of Thursday an error was made, which does injustice to Senor Cuesta. I beg to correct that part of the despatch It was written and should read thus: 'It appears that Senor Cuesta, interpreter to the Mexican Legation, received from Irastequi, the Mexican prefect who certified to the genuineness of the signatures of Gardiner's witnesses, and who consequently acted an important part in getting the testimony up, a draft on Gardiner for twenty-eight thousand dollars, to be presented in case the claim was allowed. It was accordingly presented, and Gardiner at once paid it by a draft purchased from Chubb & Schenck.'"

The statement that Mr. Cuesta demanded an investigation was, as could readily be seen by the context, a typographical error, Mr. Curtis being the gentleman indicated.

Senor Cuesta mistakes in supposing that I gave an abstract of his testimony before the Grand Jury in the despatch alluded to, and a moment's reflection will convince him that on Thursday last (the date of the despatch) I could not have given the substance of evidence which he did not lay before the Grand Jury till the Saturday following. I regret Senor Cuesta did not see my correction, so promptly made, as it doubtless would have relieved him from the trouble of addressing you. SCRUTATOR.